

CABLE SEC DISSEM BY 1/3

PER

TOTAL COPIES 16-1

RUN BY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~REPRODUCTION BY OTHER
ISSUING OFFICE IS PROHIBITED

PERSON/UNIT NOTIFIED

STATE MESSAGE

ADVANCE COPY ISSUED/SLOTTED

BY

AT

Z

ACTION UNIT

I

RF. FILE

N

F

ACTION #

O

1

4

25X1

2

5

3

6

T 188554

EIA042

PAGE 01

NC 26195

TOR: 260550Z JUL 75

R 252142Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9573

INFO RUEBG/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 1680

BT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CARACAS 7649

EO 11652 NA

TAGS: PBOR PFOR PLOS VE CO

SUBJ: PRESIDENT PEREZ COMMENTS ON COLOMBIAN PROPOSAL
FOR THE GULF OF VENEZUELA

REF: CARACAS 7551 AND 7528, BOGOTA 6888 AND 6851

1, PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ TOLD REPORTERS JULY 25 THAT THE TERRITORIAL DISPUTE WITH COLOMBIA TRANSCENDS PARTY POLITICS, AND THAT "THERE HAS NOT BEEN NOR WILL THERE BE ANY CHANGE IN THE POSITION WHICH VENEZUELA HAS MAINTAINED CONCERNING THIS MATTER, AND WE CONTINUE HOPING AND ASPIRING TO AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF THIRD PARTIES. WE LISTEN TO AND RESPECT ANY POSITION, ANY INITIATIVE, WHICH COMES FROM COLOMBIA AND ITS ILLUSTRIOUS PRESIDENT BECAUSE IT IS OUR OBLIGATION, BUT VENEZUELA KNOWS WHICH IS ITS PATH AND WHAT ITS RIGHTS ARE AND IS AWARE THAT WITHIN OUR CONCEPT OF PEACE, COEXISTENCE, AND UNDERSTANDING WE WILL ALWAYS DEFEND THEM."

2, COMMENT. PRESIDENT LOPEZ'S PROPOSAL FOR A COLOMBIAN-VENEZUELAN CONDOMINIUM OVER THAT PORTION OF THE GULF OF VENEZUELA CLAIMED BY BOTH COUNTRIES HAS PROVOKED MUCH LOCAL COMMENT, MOSTLY UNFAVORABLE. THE PRESIDENT OF THE VENEZUELAN COLLEGE OF INTERNATIONALISTS HAS DECLARED THAT IN SEP 1939 PRESIDENT LOPEZ CONTRERAS DECREED THE CLOSING OF THE GULF, AND HAS RECALLED THAT VENEZUELA SINCE ON OCCASION HAS DETAINED FOREIGN SHIPS (MOSTLY COLOMBIAN) IN THE GULF. MOST VENEZUELANES SEEM TO SUSPECT THAT LOPEZ'S PROPOSAL IS AN EFFORT TO REINFORCE COLOMBIA'S BARGAINING POSITION AND PRESIDENT PEREZ'S COMMENTS APPEAR INTENDED TO REASSURE VENEZUELANES THAT THE GOV IS NOT PREPARED TO RELAX ITS HARDLINE ATTITUDE, SHLAUDEMAN

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~